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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **VIRGINIA'S SOYBEAN FARMERS HARVESTING RECORD HIGH YIELDS**

Soybean yields are expected to average a record high 39 bushels per acre statewide according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the highest yield ever recorded for the Commonwealth surpassing the previous record of 34 bushels per acre in 1996. This is 4 bushels per acre higher than the October 1 forecast of 35 bushels per acre. Soybean production is estimated at nearly 18 million bushels from 460,000 harvested acres. This year's soybean production is 51 percent higher than last year.

Corn yields averaged 140 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast. Corn harvest has slowed due to lack of storage space at grain elevators. This has caused harvest to lag slightly behind the five year average. Corn for grain production is estimated at 42 million bushels harvested from 300,000 acres, up 92 percent from last year.

Virginia's cotton producers expect to average 722 pound of lint per acre. This is up 3 percent from the October 1 forecast of 700 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 164,000 bales from 109,000 acres.

The state's peanut yield is forecast at 2,850 pounds per acre. This is down 150 pounds per acre from the October 1 forecast. Production is expected to total nearly 214 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco producers are expecting to average a record 2,500 pounds per acre and production is expected to total 42.5 million pounds from 17,000 acres. Despite the record yield, production is down 32 percent from last year due to large carryover stocks and a decrease in quota. Burley tobacco yields are forecast at 2,200 pounds per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast. Yield forecasts of the other types of tobacco remain unchanged as well with fire-cured at 1,700 and sun-cured at 1,700 pounds per acre.

## **CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM OCTOBER**

### **SOYBEANS DOWN 2 PERCENT**

### **ALL COTTON VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED**

Corn for grain production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from 1999. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 137.7 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from last month, but up 3.9 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest production and second largest yield on record. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 73.0 million acres, unchanged from last month. Overall yield declines in the Corn Belt more than offset increases in the mid-Atlantic States and Missouri. Yield declines in the Corn Belt were mainly due to lower ear weights.

Soybean production is forecast at record high 2.78 billion bushels, down 2 percent from October 1, but 5 percent above 1999. The yield forecast, at 38.0 bushels per acre, decreased 0.7 bushel from last month, but is 1.4 bushels above the 1999 final yield. Acreage for harvest is estimated at a record 73.0 million acres, unchanged from October 1, but up 1 percent from 1999. Yield decreases in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains regions more than offset yield increases in the mid-Atlantic States and Ohio. Reduced yields in the Corn Belt were a result of lower pod counts.

All cotton production is forecast at 17.5 million 480-pound bales, up marginally from last month, and up three percent from 1999. Yield is expected to average 622 pounds per harvested acre, up two pounds from last month. Lower production forecasts in Texas, Georgia, and Missouri were more than offset by increased production forecasts in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. On October 29, U.S. harvest was 67 percent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 59 percent.